

## The Sun.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1893.

## Advertising Rates.

DAILY AND SUNDAY, 10 cents a line, ordinary advertising; large type, 15 cents; and preferred position, 20 cents; 25 cents according to classification.

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Sunday 145,420; Monday 132,700; Tuesday 132,700; Wednesday 132,700; Thursday 132,700; Friday 132,700; Saturday 132,700; Total for the week 941,110.

## Not Fifty Years Ago.

A statue of HARRIET MARTINEAU was unveiled last Wednesday at the Old South Meeting House in Boston. The ceremony drew together a cultivated audience which filled that historic temple, and addresses were made by Mr. WENDELL PHILLIPS, WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON, Jr., and others. It is a monument to a woman who, in the great change in public feeling which was expressed by the erection in Boston of a statue of HARRIET MARTINEAU.

When that Englishwoman came to the United States in 1831, she was welcomed as a writer of great reputation, who was especially deserving of distinction because of her services in behalf of the political and philanthropic reforms in which the serious men of that day were interested. Boston was ready to do her honor, for it was then the seat of literary activity, and humanitarians were said to be heard of in the streets.

But the Boston of those days, though fond enough of philanthropy in general, was bitterly opposed to that particular sort of philanthropy which desired the abolition of slavery. It was morbidly sensitive as to that matter; and anybody suspected of abolitionism was put under a social ban. Out-and-out abolitionists were even mobbed; and a man who had ventured to predict that the negro slaves would be voting in this free and glorious republic within a generation would be treated as a pestilential nuisance, or at least as a pestilential nuisance of all that was safe in politics, society, and religion.

It so happened that HARRIET MARTINEAU passed through Boston in 1831 on a day when the respectable citizens were too much alarmed in a special place of business to pay much regard to her at the moment. They had assembled in State street, not far from Faneuil Hall, the Cradle of Liberty, for the purpose of mobbing WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON, the abolitionist leader, and laughing him on Boston Common. Miss Martineau was almost by accident the cause of what she could not make out. When she reached her destination, she inquired of her host what it all meant, and was horror-struck to learn the truth, which had previously been kept from her. He assured her, however, that there could be no harm from such a gathering, for "it was not a mob, but a collection of gentlemen." The respectability of Boston abhorred an abolitionist in those days.

But Miss Martineau took pains to go to a meeting of anti-slavery women which had assembled in a private parlor because of fear of the mob, and there briefly expressed her sympathy with them. So doing, she committed an unpardonable sin in the eyes of the respectable Boston. "After the few words she said at the meeting," Mr. WENDELL PHILLIPS told the audience on Wednesday, "the friends who entertained her were ostracized, for no one would enter their house, although they were not tainted with abolitionism. Such was the lawlessness of that day that she was obliged to forgo the Western journey which she had planned, because she was told it would not be safe for her to enter the State of Ohio, where she would surely be lynched."

And all that took place at a time within the memory of many living men! Yet it seems now like a story of the Dark Ages.

## The Glowing Skies.

The fiery glow in the sky after sundown, and before sunrise, which has attracted attention here a month ago, was again witnessed on Friday evening and yesterday morning, and the strange illumination has at no time appeared with greater brilliancy. The fact is now established that the phenomenon is worldwide. It has been beheld at sea and on land in every quarter of the earth. All the world has seen it. In some places it has excited alarm, and everywhere it has been beheld with wonder. It is as brilliant before sunrise as after sunset. It has lasted for many weeks, and no meteorological phenomenon has appeared in the equatorial regions as long ago as the first of September. Sometimes the peculiar appearance of the heavens has been confined to the early evening and morning hours, and to the neighborhood of the horizon, but the sun and moon when high in the heavens have appeared discolored, and the sky around them has exhibited strange effects of color and illumination.

It is not surprising that innumerable theories have been advanced to account for the appearances. Men of science have been called to solve the mystery, but apparently no two agree in opinion. At first some were inclined to attribute the phenomenon to an excess of moisture in the atmosphere, but meteorological observations have shown that, instead of possessing an excess of moisture, the air has been unusually dry. It has also been shown that the matter from which the light is reflected must be at an enormous height in the atmosphere. Prof. HARMON of Berlin, basing his conclusions on observations made there, has recently estimated its height at about forty miles. At the meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Brooklyn several weeks ago, it was shown that, if the length of time during which the light had been seen after sunset had been correctly stated, the height of the reflecting matter was not less than sixty miles.

The question, then, is what matter exists at that height capable of producing such effects? Mr. J. N. Loomis, the distinguished English astronomer, has lately advocated the theory that the reflecting matter producing the red sunsets is dust ejected from the volcano of Krakatoa during its tremendous eruption at the end of August, and distributed over the earth by the winds. It is difficult, however, to see how volcanic dust in an exceedingly attenuated form could be thrown to the height of sixty or even eighty miles, especially when the quantity required to affect the atmosphere all around the earth is considered. It is much easier to understand how the reflecting matter could be introduced into the upper portion of the atmosphere from outer space, and, indeed, we know that matter is being thus introduced continually through the fall of meteors into the atmosphere, where they are consumed generally at a height of between fifty and seventy miles. Of course the products of their combustion remain in the atmosphere and slowly settle to earthward. While the suggestion that the reflecting

matter is of cosmic origin thus offers a ready explanation of its presence at such an enormous height from the earth, it encounters the difficulty that no great meteoric shower has been witnessed. An unusual number of large meteors have been seen during the last two or three months, and about the time when the sunset glow began to be noticed here Prof. Brooks, from his observatory in western New York, saw an extraordinary shower of meteoric meteors. But no meteoric display in any way comparable to that of 1833 has been seen, and so far as is known, there were no especially remarkable sunsets or sunrise effects in 1833. But perhaps the difficulty may be got over by supposing that the meteoric matter did not enter the atmosphere in the ordinary shape of fire balls or shooting stars, but that it was a cloud of more cosmic particles or dust when the earth encountered it. In that case it might enter the atmosphere being visible as a shower of blazing meteors. At all events, we know that a vast number of meteors dart into the atmosphere from outer space which are so small that the illumination produced by their consumption is not perceptible to the naked eye, although swarms of them are occasionally seen shooting like tiny sparks through the field of a telescope.

Another difficulty in the way of the meteoric dust theory is the great length of time during which the phenomenon sky glows have been visible. It would naturally be thought that dust in the upper atmosphere, no matter what its origin, could not remain suspended forty, fifty, or sixty miles high, where the air is excessively rare, for several months. The attenuation of the reflecting matter may, however, be extraordinarily fine, and matter existing at the supposed altitude of this dust would be above the limits of the rain, and the effects of the winds might be toward its descent.

On the other hand, Mr. LOCKYER has been able to find some support for his theory in the apparent course of the phenomenon, first from east to west around the earth, starting from the neighborhood of the East Indies, and then with slower progression north and south. It is not yet clear, however, from the evidence that has been obtained, that the phenomenon has really progressed in the manner required by this theory. Fortunately, as it seems to have attracted so much public attention, a careful study of the various accounts from different parts of the world will, no doubt, eventually clear up this point.

At present no theory of this extraordinary phenomenon can be said to have been demonstrated. While all the world has watched the sky ablaze with unworldly hues, everybody would be pleased to find a conclusive explanation of the appearances.

## New Ideas in College Government.

The Faculty of Bowdoin College have devised a novel scheme for the government of the young men studying in that institution. They have organized a court of justice, consisting of the President of the College and a jury of undergraduates. The jury serves for a year. It is elected by the students on the following basis of representation: Each of the four classes is entitled to a jurymen; each chartered chapter of an intercollegiate Greek Letter fraternity has a representative, provided the chapter's membership is at least ten, while the smaller societies may club together and make up that number; finally, the students who belong to no secret society—elect one member of the jury. The official recognition by the Faculty of the existence of the Greek Letter societies, and the implication that the political and social condition of the students is inferior to that of the society members, are not the least curious features of the system.

The court is chosen has jurisdiction in all matters of college discipline, with a few exceptions, and it administers justice in disputes among the students, or between the students and the Faculty. The jury, by unanimous vote, finds a verdict on questions of fact, and it also fixes the penalty in cases of conviction. The President of the College can remove or mitigate the sentence, but he has no power to increase its severity. The culprit's fate, therefore, is practically in the hands of his fellow students. The cases which lie outside of the jurisdiction of the tribunal are those involving questions of college dues, of rank and honors, of conduct in the recitation room, and of attendance at required exercises. In all other respects, the Faculty have conceded to the undergraduates the right of self-government. The transgressor is tried by a jury of his peers, and they find him guilty or innocent, and they mete out the sentence according to the following grand schedule of offenses and penalties:

1. Deliberate falsehood—Discontinue attendance.
2. Grave misdemeanor—Removal, with privilege of entering another college.
3. Major offense—Suspension, or reprimand with censure.
4. Minor offense—Admonition or reprimand.

There is an important feature of this system which must not be overlooked. The student who is arraigned before the jury for trial cannot enter the legal plea of "not guilty," and thus throw the burden of proof upon the prosecution. He is held responsible for the truth of his plea, as for the truth of the testimony which he may render in his own defense. If it is proved that he has lied in his plea, he is immediately amenable to prosecution for deliberate falsehood, and to the severest punishment known to the college code. This simplifies the investigations by the jury.

Of course, all this amounts to a surrender by the college authorities of a large share of the parental control which they have exercised over the goings and comings of the students. It is an attempt to strengthen the sense of citizenship and of individual responsibility in the college community. As a matter of fact, we understand, the new system is primarily directed against the practice of having a custom which for many years has been maintained at Bowdoin College with uncommon persistency and frequently with a ferocity that has given the friends of the institution much trouble. The traditions of college life are cast iron, so far as the regulation of the behavior of the lowest class is concerned. A case now before the jury is reported by Brunswick correspondent of the *Boston Globe*. Two brothers named MOUTON, of the Freshman class, were maltreated by the Sophomores because they ventured to sing in public the following foolish verses from a song which college custom has long held as forbidden music to the new-comers:

"Then bid the grinning skeleton, and shut the coffin lid,  
And screw the Freshman in it, till his infant form is hid.  
For this child is his ancient glory."

"There are pairs, and there are windows, and there's water in the well,  
As the Freshman will discover, if the Freshman cuts a swell."

"Oh! water for his diet, till existence is a hell,  
For this child is his ancient glory."

The experiment of jury trial is already several months old at Bowdoin College. According to all reports, it has proved successful. The sentiment against singing and

favor of deacon, orderly, self-respecting conduct, is much stronger among the undergraduates than at any previous time. The *Bowdoin Orient* of Dec. 19 says:

"This term, now practically over, affords a marked contrast to former years. Student quiet has prevailed from the very outset. It has been demonstrated that the two lower classes can get along without resorting to warfare. The jury has met from week to week, and in lieu of anything better, has occupied itself in studying plans for the future. This harmless amusement is, however, much to be preferred to the task of stringing up the case of an unfortunate fellow student."

It is quite conceivable that the post of jurymen will not be altogether enviable, particularly while college sentiment is in the transition state. If the new plan stands the test of time, however, and produces results corresponding to the expectations of President CHAMBERLAIN, it is not at all improbable that the faculties of other colleges may extend to their students the rights and responsibilities of self-government.

## The Brooklyn Bridge.

When the Brooklyn Bridge was opened last May many prognostications were made as to what would be its effects on the two cities so joined together. Now we are able to compare these prophecies with the actual facts during the first six months of the history of the structure as an established institution.

According to the report of the President of the Bridge Trustees, the business done by the bridge from its opening up to the end of November was as follows:

	Foot passengers.	Automobiles.	Trucks.	Freight.
May 23 to 31	1,000,000	10,000	1,000	10,000
June	1,000,000	10,000	1,000	10,000
July	1,000,000	10,000	1,000	10,000
August	1,000,000	10,000	1,000	10,000
September	1,000,000	10,000	1,000	10,000
October	1,000,000	10,000	1,000	10,000
November	1,000,000	10,000	1,000	10,000
Total	6,000,000	60,000	6,000	60,000

The total amount received was \$138,773, made up of \$125,000 from foot passengers, \$12,138 from vehicles, and \$61,115 from railway passengers.

It will be seen that since June, or since the bridge ceased to be a great curiosity to the people of the two cities, there has been a steady monthly decrease in the number of foot passengers and vehicles; and probably the returns for the present month will show that the decline has continued. The only increase is in the number of railway passengers, and if the railway shall work smoothly and uninterruptedly during the winter, that increase may go on. The number of passengers carried is now limited, however, by a fare which is high for the service rendered, and which tends to the ferries a large proportion of those who cross the river and would otherwise prefer the bridge railway.

The decrease in the vehicle traffic is likely to continue, for the tolls are about the same as those of the ferries, and there are peculiar disadvantages connected with driving over the bridge. The entrances at both ends are narrow, and that in New York is on a crowded thoroughfare where converging car lines interrupt vehicles. Horses, too, get a rest on the ferries, which is especially desirable when they are drawing loads.

The increase in the use of the bridge railway, unsatisfactory as it has been, shows where the great passenger traffic is to come from. Already more people cross by the cars than on foot, and the number is increasing monthly in spite of the fact that for the distance traversed the fare is high in comparison with the rates of the street cars and of the elevated roads during commission hours. Undoubtedly, if the car service is improved and the fare reduced, the railway will do vastly more business.

It seems to be evident, therefore, that, as we early anticipated, the chief purpose served by the Brooklyn Bridge will be that of a railway bridge purely. Even with the present inadequate and unsatisfactory railway service, the number of foot passengers is likely to go on decreasing, especially in cold weather, and when the service is improved and the fare reduced it is probable that the use of the bridge by foot passengers will be much more largely lessened.

Not until the bridge becomes a part of the railway system will the case of a period, and a railway ride across is greatly reduced, will it begin to have any very decided effect on either of the two cities. The fact is probably not far off; and it has been even surmised that there are men who have rejoiced over the uncertainty of the car service on the bridge, because they have believed that the vexation of the public on account of the inadequacy of that service would hasten the accomplishment of what they had in view, that is, the transformation of the structure into a railway bridge pure and simple.

So far the receipts of the bridge have not gone far toward paying the \$100,000 a month required for its maintenance and to meet the interest on its bonds and provide for their redemption.

## The Success of Polygamists.

Congressional legislation against the polygamy of Utah has so far been vain. The Mormons are more stubborn than ever in their determination to continue the practice of marrying as many wives as their fanatical religion will allow them to take.

The polygamists of New England have also scored a victory within the last few days. Not long ago the Rev. Mr. CRYSTAL, the pastor of a Congregational church in Hobbart, Connecticut village, publicly stigmatized as a polygamist a prominent member of his flock named FILLMONT, and declared that he was unworthy of church membership. Mr. FILLMONT, it seems, has married four wives, being now, after three divorces, the more or less permanent husband of the fourth woman.

He, however, bitterly resented the assaults of his pastor, and brought against him both a civil action for slander and an ecclesiastical action for conduct unbecoming a minister. The case has been pending in the court for some time, but it was finally decided in favor of the pastor, who was ordered to pay costs, first, and was concluded last Saturday, when a committee of investigation reported that the Rev. Mr. CRYSTAL was guilty of improper conduct in using personalities in the pulpit, and was deserving of a reprimand. The church voted to adopt the report, and subsequently passed resolutions censuring the pastor.

It has therefore been established in Connecticut that it is unsafe for a Congregational pastor to meddle with the form of polygamy practiced in a darkly situated corner of the United States, and particularly to find fault with a polygamist member of his flock. The action of the Hobbart church also indicates that in the opinion of Congregationalists that sort of polygamy is entirely consistent with the requirements of church membership. The church rebukes and censures the complaining pastor, and sustains the man who has had four wives, though death has parted him from none of them.

This result must give a blow to the hopes of the Rev. LEONARD BACON and the other Congregational opponents of the Connecticut divorce laws. They would assail the divorce laws of the State as contrary to the laws of God, which the Church is bound to obey. The Hobbart church, however, declares, in substance, that a man has a right to take advantage of those laws, and that his pastor has no right to accuse him of conduct unbecoming a Christian for so doing. And it has taken that ground in a case which may well be called an aggravated one. Even

In Connecticut, a man with three divorced wives who takes to himself a fourth must be rather an exceptional character; and if he cannot be censured by his pastor as a polygamist, who is to blame for it?

It seems to be evident, therefore, that the Congregationalists will not present a united front in opposition to free divorce and New England polygamy. Other Connecticut pastors who undertook to assail individual polygamists would probably meet the fate of the Rev. Mr. CRYSTAL of Hobbart, and a Congregational minister who married divorced people without question would very likely be in a much safer position, perhaps all the more popular on that account.

## The Severe Sentence in the Sherwin Case.

A very severe sentence for contempt of court was imposed at Albany on Friday. FRANK R. SHERWIN had pleaded guilty to indictments for misdemeanor in having disobeyed a subpoena in the case of the People against CHARLES H. PHILLIPS, who was convicted of embezzling a large amount out of the State Treasurer's office. A considerable portion of the money was alleged to have gone into Mr. SHERWIN's hands, but whether he was charged with any guilty knowledge of the embezzlement or not we do not remember. At all events, no such charge could properly be considered in disposing of the present case, which consisted simply of an accusation that he had wilfully disobeyed certain legal process which he was bound to respect. Upon his plea of guilty, the simple duty of the Court was to pronounce such a sentence as would adequately punish him.

The judgment of the Court of Oyer and Terminer, held by Mr. JUSTICE OSBORN, was that SHERWIN should pay a fine of \$50 and be imprisoned in the Albany penitentiary for two years.

We doubt whether so severe a sentence for contempt of court has ever before been imposed in this country. Its severity will tend to create sympathy for SHERWIN. Whatever may have been his intent in disobeying the subpoena in the PHILLIPS case, the result of his disobedience does not seem to have been very detrimental to the State, inasmuch as PHILLIPS was convicted and sent to prison "without SHERWIN's testimony." Under these circumstances, the punishment of the defendant for disobeying the subpoena, as it would have been if he had not attended, had enabled PHILLIPS to procure an acquittal. A simple fine in the case of a man who distinctly admitted that he had intentionally disobeyed the mandate of a Court might not be sufficient. It was proper, we think, to impose some term of imprisonment, but a term of two years was too long. One month, three months, or six months at most, would have been nearer right.

There have been numerous cases in which men convicted of felonious homicide have escaped with a shorter imprisonment than two years.

## The Tariff in Canada.

An instructive history of the tariff question in Canada is to be found in another column of this paper.

The first well-defined issue between the ideas of protection and free trade was determined by the Canadians after considerable discussion in 1878, and resulted in the overwhelming success of the protectionists. After that election, however, the discussion went on with greater vigor than ever until 1892, when the question again formed the leading issue between the Liberals and Conservatives, and the free traders were once more victorious.

Two defects of this action were enough for them. Since then the free trade organs have shown no disposition to debate the subject, but have turned themselves with avidity to comments and essays upon the articles that appear in the principal foreign magazines.

Canada is a prosperous as well as an intelligent country.

There is so much harmony among the Republicans of this State that it seems a pity to disappoint any of them. All of the candidates for Speaker of the Assembly expect to be elected, and will drop and pine if they are not. As it would be irregular to elect them all simultaneously, would it not be well to elect them by lot? Mr. GAY, for instance, might hold the office for a month, and then resign in order that Mr. ROSSWELL or Mr. SHEPARD might be elected. Let the Republicans in the Assembly avoid heartburnings and stick to harmony; and this seems to be the best way to do it.

King KOFFEE KAKKAL is again the football of fortune. Evidently holding that the poet's exclamation, "How sweet a thing it is to wear a crown," does not apply to Ashantee, he sought in abdication a relief from the troubles of reigning. He was caught in his flight, and the crown was put on his head again, and he was promptly defeated with great slaughter by his rival now on the throne. Since then his body guard of ninety men has been massacred, and out of his seventy children only two are spared. The despach which gave the latter news adds that "the affairs in Ashantee are quiet," but quiet must be taken as a relative term.

Norway is the country that now sends us the largest proportion of its people; and since Sweden follows next, while Denmark is fourth, we are evidently drawing a far greater ratio of immigrants from the Scandinavian countries than from any other. Germany, it is true, yields us many more in actual numbers, but she also has a much greater population from which to spare them. The proportion of population emigrating to our land is nearly four times as great in Norway as in Germany, and more than twice as great in Sweden. This Scandinavian element is one of strength for America.

A drier and drearier looking sight than the New York streets through which the horse cars run it would be hard to find, even if any body needed to find it. Mountains of mud-crowned snow piled on each side, bottomless depths of untrampled and miscellaneous slush at the crossings, the dirty, slippery tracks, continuing in the mud, and "blocks" and above all, and above all power of language to express, the deep, blinding things in the air, the spirit and quiescence of ten thousand miscellaneous and lurid odors in many tongues—all these make life a burden and make the road a weary cause of sorrow.

According to tradition, that car conductors, drivers, and truck drivers outward the army in Finland?

We invite the attention of the Hon. THOMAS PORTERMAN, O. H. H. member of Congress, and of the Committee on Agriculture, to the Hon. and Dr. GEORGE BAILEY LORING, Commissioner of Agriculture. It is a large subject, and beautiful to see; but the illustrious statesman, traveler and romancer of Texas is recently stretched to the cause of sorrow. It is to be doubted if his splendor will be so much to be dazzled by its splendor. Let Col. OCHTENZ ask himself and Dr. LORING what is the use of the Bureau of Agriculture. Let him urge the Committee on Agriculture to investigate this condition. Let Extremist PATRICK be called upon to show LORING's report to the Senate, and let the country be deprived of the privilege of examining this invaluable product at \$1 a pound. Not if COLLIER KNOWS IT, or Col. OCHTENZ finds it out. Finally, let the red Texan assauld LORING, and satisfy himself by practical tests whether the portly Commissioner knows anything about the cause of sorrow. Not how to distinguish wheat from barley, how LORING knows any remedy which will keep the phylloxera away from griststones? Does he

cultivate potatoes for their tops? A few questions like these will show exactly what his rank is as an expert on agriculture, and will probably make him fly from OCHTENZ even as a policeman flies from a wild Texas steer.

It is said that the Hon. RICHARD CROWLEY longs to be District Attorney of the District of Columbia, in place of Mr. CORNHILL, whose term expires in January. It will be remembered that Mr. CROWLEY was engaged to do some special legal work for the Government in New Carolina, but threw up the ample fees and opportunities of "special counsel" because he was not received at the White House with the enthusiasm and show of love that he was wont to have. But peace has been made between the President and CROWLEY since then, and the ex-Governor of New York has been invited to be obliged to cool his heels at the White House. It will be interesting to see, if CROWLEY is appointed, how the Republican party in New York can thrive without him. But perhaps he won't thrive.

Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOLE, in acknowledging the receipt of a Welsh translation of one of his speeches, says: "I fear I am too old to learn to read it, but I shall always regard it with interest." LORING couldn't have acknowledged in fatter words the receipt of an English translation of one of his own vigorous orations.

The irrepressible and inevitable CHAUNCEY I. FILLIE, the pride of St. Louis, is at it again. He means to send a protesting delegation from Kansas to the Chicago Convention, and he is a local hero in that State. He is a man of whom FILLIE will be last and all the time, but it is naughty for him to support LORING. What harm has LORING ever done him? The Illinois man's boom was looking so well, too. Tip up your FILLIE at once, General, before any more damage is done.

The rumor that MATEFFEL is to resign his Governorship of the provinces conquered from France, and to be succeeded by a German army high officer, has been nothing of keeping alive in their minds when deep in the elixir. Perhaps the solution found for this much-proved aid will be to give him a Vice-Governor to add him, as MATEFFEL received an aid.

Bills for pensions are numbered by hundreds or thousands in Congress, but the one now proposed for a pension for Mrs. Mary Browning of New York City stands alone in belief, in the grounds on which it is urged. Mr. ALDRICH's bill declares that Mrs. Browning, "the daughter of the regiment, of Capt. C. W. H. Day's company, First Regiment of Rhode Island Detached Militia, was regularly mustered into the service of the United States, and, though a woman, followed the flag of the Union, was wounded in the line of duty at the first battle of Bull Run, and received an honorable discharge, signed by Gen. Burnside." It would be interesting to know how many cases were of women, being regularly mustered into the service of the United States, and though a woman, followed the flag of the Union, was wounded in the line of duty at the first battle of Bull Run, and received an honorable discharge, signed by Gen. Burnside.

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## FRESH WASHINGTON GOSSIP.

Nellie Arthur, Christiana, Party-Getting Ready for the Season.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—Washington is such a pleasure-loving city that it aspires to all the popular diversions of